CLAIMS:

1. A circuit (2) for a first communication partner appliance (1) designed for contactless communication,

which first communication partner appliance (1) belongs to a communication system comprising at least one second such communication partner appliance (1'),

in which circuit (2) either an active send mode (ABM) or a passive send mode (PBM) may be activated and

wherein the circuit comprises terminal means (3, 4), which are provided to transmit carrier signals (TS1, TS2) usable for contactless communication, and

wherein the circuit (2) comprises communication signal processing means (16), with which communication signal processing means (16) a carrier signal (TS1) generated with the communication signal processing means (16) may be used for sending communication when the active send mode (ABM) is activated, and

with which communication signal processing means (16) a carrier signal (TS2) generated with a second communication partner appliance (1') and received by the circuit (2) via the terminal means (3, 4) may be used for sending communication when the passive send mode (PBM) is activated, and

wherein the circuit comprises determination means (15), which are designed to determine first energy source information (SI1), which first energy source information (SI1) is characteristic of at least one parameter of at least one energy source (11, 12) serving to supply the circuit with electrical energy, and

wherein the circuit (2) comprises decision means (26), which are designed to form a decision result taking account of the first energy source information (SI1) determined using the determination means (15), which decision result influences which send mode is to be activated in the circuit (2) of the first communication partner appliance (1).

2. A circuit (2) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determination means (15) are designed to determine first value information (VI1), which first value information (VI1) is characteristic of the value of the energy available for supplying the circuit (2) and which first value information (VI1) is contained in the first energy source information (SI1).

3. A circuit (2) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determination means (15) are designed to determine first type information (MI1), which first type information (MI1) is characteristic of the type of energy source (11, 12) serving to supply the circuit (2) and which first type information (MI1) is contained in the first energy source information (SI1).

4. A circuit (2) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decision means (26) are additionally designed to form the decision result taking account of second energy source information (SI2) available in the circuit (2) but determined in a circuit (2') of a second communication partner appliance (1'), which second energy source information (SI2) is characteristic of at least one parameter of at least one energy source (11', 12', 11'', 12') serving to supply the circuit (2') of the second communication partner appliance (1') with electrical energy, which decision result influences which send mode is to be activated in the circuit (2) of the first communication partner appliance (1).

5. A circuit (2) as claimed in claim 4, wherein the decision means (26) are additionally designed to form the decision result taking account of second value information (VI2) available in the circuit (2) but determined in the circuit (2') of the second communication partner appliance (1'), which second value information (VI2) is contained in the second energy source information (SI2) determined in the circuit (2') of the second communication partner appliance (1').

6. A circuit (2) as claimed in claim 4, wherein the decision means (26) are additionally designed to form the decision result taking account of second type information (MI2) available in the circuit (2) but determined in the circuit (2') of the second communication partner appliance (1'), which second type information (MI2) is contained in the second energy source information (SI2) determined in the circuit (2') of the second communication partner appliance (1').

7. A circuit (2) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decision means (26) are designed to communicate the decision result to the second communication partner appliance (1') with the aid of the communication signal processing means (16).

8. A circuit (2) as claimed in claim 1 or as claimed in claim 4, wherein control means (27) are provided, which are designed to receive the decision result and which, if according to the decision result the send mode other than the previously activated send mode is to be activated, are designed to terminate the previously activated send mode, thus terminating a communication protocol used therefor, and to activate the send mode to be activated according to the decision result, restarting the stated communication protocol.

9. A circuit (2) as claimed in claim 1 or as claimed in claim 4, wherein control means (27) are provided, which are designed to receive the decision result and which, if according to the decision result the same send mode as the previously activated send mode is to be activated, are designed to maintain the previously activated send mode, with termination and subsequent restart of a communication protocol used.

10. A communication partner appliance (1) having a circuit (2) as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.

11. A method of controlling a circuit (2) with regard to its send modes, which circuit (2) is provided for a first communication partner appliance (1) designed for contactless communication, which first communication partner appliance (1) belongs to a communication system comprising at least one second such communication partner appliance (1'), and which circuit (2) comprises terminal means (3, 4), which are provided to transmit carrier signals (TS1, TS2) usable for contactless communication, and in which circuit (2) either an active send mode (ABM) or a passive send mode (PBM) may be activated, in which active send mode (ABM) a carrier signal (TS1) that can be generated by communication signal processing means (16) of the circuit (2) may be used for sending communication by means of the communication signal processing means (16) and in which passive send mode (PBM) a carrier signal (TS2) received by the circuit (2) may be used for sending communication,

wherein first energy source information is determined (SI1), which first energy source information (SI1) is characteristic of at least one parameter of at least one energy source (11, 12) serving to supply the circuit (2) with electrical energy, and

wherein a decision result is formed taking account of the determined first energy source information (SI1), which decision result influences which send mode is to be activated in the circuit (2) of the first communication partner appliance (1).

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein first value information (VI1) is determined, which first value information (VI1) is characteristic of the value of the energy available for supplying the circuit (2) and which first value information (VI1) is contained in the first energy source information (SI1).

13. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein a first type information (MI1) is determined, which first type information (MI1) is characteristic of the type of energy source (11, 12) serving to supply the circuit (2) and which first type information (MI1) is contained in the first energy source information (SI1).

14. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein a decision result is formed additionally taking account of second energy source information (SI2), available in the circuit (2) but determined in a circuit (2') of a second communication partner appliance (1'), which second energy source (SI2) is characteristic of at least one parameter of at least one energy source (11', 12', 11'', 12') serving to supply the circuit (2') of the second communication partner appliance (1) with electrical energy, which decision result influences which send mode is to be activated in the circuit (2) of the first communication partner appliance (1).

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the decision result is formed additionally taking account of second value information (VI2) available in the circuit (2) but determined in the circuit (2') of the second communication partner appliance (1'), which second value information (VI1) is contained in the second energy source information (SI2) determined in the circuit (2') of the second communication partner appliance (1').

16. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the decision result is formed additionally taking account of second type information (MI2) available in the circuit (2) but determined in the circuit (2') of the second communication partner appliance (1'), which second type information (MI1) is contained in the second energy source information (SI2) determined in the circuit (2') of the second communication partner appliance (1').

17. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the decision result is communicated to the second communication partner appliance (1') with the aid of the communication signal processing means (16).

18. A method as claimed in claim 11 or as claimed in claim 14, wherein, if according to the decision result the send mode other than the previously activated send mode is to be activated, the control means (27) of the circuit (2) designed to receive the decision result terminate the previously activated send mode through termination of a communication protocol used therefor, and the send mode to be activated according to the decision result is activated with a restart of said communication protocol.

19. A method as claimed in claim 11 or as claimed in claim 14, wherein, if according to the decision result the same send mode as the previously activated send mode is to be activated, the control means (27) of the circuit (2) designed to receive the decision signal maintain the previously active send mode through termination and subsequent restart of a communication protocol used.